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10/584,870	06/08/2007	Noel R.M. de Keyzer	L0012US	9678

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EXAMINER	
SCOTT, ANGELA C	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed December 9, 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants argue that the claimed molecular weight is less than that in the examples of de Keyzer et al. However, applicant is reminded that a reference is prior art for all that it teaches and not simply its examples. de Keyzer et al. teaches block copolymers with a molecular weight range of from 100,000 to 500,000, preferably from 150,000 to 250,000 (Page 5, lines 21-25)

Applicant's argue that the claims require the viscosity of the composition to vary only within plus or minus 5% of the starting viscosity after 24 hours and that Polymer E (examples) of de Keyzer et al. does not meet this criteria. Applicants refer to Table 3, Composition B (same as Polymer E), of the instant specification to show that the deKeyzer et al. polymer does not meet the viscosity requirement. However, in Table 1 of the instant specification, a different coupling agent is used for Composition B than for the inventive examples. Therefore, a side by side comparison cannot be made between the polymers. Also, it is not clear as to the exact additives used and how much of the additive is used in the comparative examples and the inventive examples. Moreover, the change in viscosity requirement as claimed applies to the composition as a whole and not to just the polymer used. Therefore, it has not sufficiently been shown that this property is not met by modifying the de Keyzer et al. reference as outlined in the Final Office Action.

Applicants argue that the coupling efficiency of the present invention is in a lesser range than that of de Keyzer et al. From examples, de Keyzer et al. shows polymers which have a coupling efficiency in the range of 81% to 87%. While the claimed range, 63% to 80%, and the prior art range do not overlap, they are close enough that one skilled in the art would have expected them to have the same properties, especially when used in adhesive compositions. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to optimize the above range in order to change the viscosity of the polymer, as stated in the Final Office Action.

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela C. Scott whose telephone number is (571) 270-3303. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Eashoo can be reached on (571) 272-1197. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Mark Eashoo/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1796

/A. C. S./
Examiner, Art Unit 1796
December 23, 2009